A New Era for Screening and Treatment of Hepatitis C

Croatia November 2013

Hepatitis C Screening: Key Issues and Evidence

Professor David Goldberg
Health Protection Scotland
Definition of “HCV Screening” – Are we all on the same page?

No

Often confusion around:

- The purpose of screening
- What constitutes a screening initiative
Have EU or EU associated professional organisations/ initiatives been robust enough in advocating HCV Screening generally?

Yes

- VHPB reports
- EASL clin guidelines
- WHO strategy
- ECDC/EMCDDA guidelines
- Hep B & C Public Policy Association calls for action
Have the major Third Sector organisations been robust enough in advocating HCV Screening generally?

Yes

- ELPA – advocacy targeted at EU commission
  - EuroHepatitis Index

- WHA – Am I number 12?
  - World Hepatitis Day
Is HCV Screening policy at EU MS level well understood?

Yes and No:
- ECDC report 2010
- Euro Hepatitis Index 2012
- WHO Survey 2013
- VHPB country reports
Is EU Guidance on HCV Screening clear and well documented?

Yes and No

- For PWID excellent (ECDC/EMCDDA)
- Lists of people at increased risk
- WHO Guidelines imminent
- ECDC funded cost-effectiveness model on the horizon
Are detailed guidelines on how to implement screening initiatives available/imminent?

Yes and No

- ECDC/EMCDDA for PWID
- NICE Guidelines (UK) 2012/2013
- EU HepScreen 2014
- Not for mass population screening
Do HCV Screening performance data at EU MS level need to be improved?

Yes  : Need to know proportion of infected, diagnosed
      : ECDC reports 2010
      : ECDC report 2012
Is an EU approved high level strategic approach to Hepatitis Screening on the horizon?

Yes : EU Hep Frame
Are the challenges of HCV Screening greater than that for HIV?

Yes

: For targeted screening particularly

: Also importance of HCV Screening less acknowledged
Are there new technologies which can aid the screening process?

Yes

: DBS sampling

: Near patient testing
Does HCV Screening always convey benefit?

No: Reduced quality of life if infection status known
Are there additional benefits of HCV Screening – i.e. other than just the obvious ones?

Yes   : The potential for population as well as individual benefit i.e. treat to prevent onward transmission
Is the evidence base on HCV Screening cost-effectiveness robust?

No

: Small number of studies of cost-effectiveness

: Small numbers of studies of impact of screening
Is there any consensus regarding an HCV prevalence cost-effectiveness threshold?

Yes : 1 – 2% for all except PWID
Is cost-effectiveness the only factor in considering whether to screen or not to screen?

No : Setting-specific circumstances